Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system comprised of a computer processor configured for executing program instructions stored in computer memory and arranged for automatic construction of a software package change plan data output, said system comprising:

an arrangement for submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to the computer system, wherein the request for accomplishing a software change describes a task to be done on at least one target system and a deadline by which a change needs to be completed;

an arrangement for constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency constraints; and

an arrangement for creating a software package change plan according to the task graph;

wherein the arrangement for creating a software package change plan includes an arrangement for determining operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by execution of the tasks; and

further comprising an arrangement for analyzing the software package change plan, whereby the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan ~~may be~~ is determined~~;~~

wherein the software package change plan is used to execute the software change.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The system of **Claim 1**, further comprising an arrangement for storing information about software packages which ~~may be~~ is installed on the computer system.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The system of **Claim 2**, further comprising an arrangement for storing information about a current configuration of the computer system.

4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Canceled)**

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Previously Presented)** The system of **Claim 1**, further comprising an arrangement which specifies software artifacts and other services being used by the system service being analyzed.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system of **Claim 1**, further comprising an arrangement which specifies the impact on service level agreements as a result of executing the software package change plan.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising an arrangement which specifies the impact on installation policies as a result of executing the software package change plan.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A method for automatic construction of a software package change plan, said method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to a computer system, wherein the request for accomplishing a software change describes a task to be done on at least one target system and a deadline by which a change needs to be completed;

constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency constraints; ~~and~~

creating a software package change plan according to the task graph;

wherein the step of creating a software package change plan includes determining operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by execution of the tasks; and

further comprising the step of analyzing the software package change plan, whereby the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan ~~may be~~ is determined;

wherein the software package change plan is used to execute the software change.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The method of **Claim 10**, further comprising the step of storing information about software packages which ~~may be~~ <u>is</u> installed on the computer system.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of **Claim 11**, further comprising the step of storing information about a current configuration of the computer system.

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Previously Presented)** The method of **Claim 10**, further comprising the step of specifying software artifacts and other services being used by the system service being analyzed.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The method of **Claim 10**, further comprising the step of specifying the impact on service level agreements as a result of executing the software package change plan.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The method of **Claim 10**, further comprising the step of specifying the impact on installation policies as a result of executing the software package change plan.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program storage device readable by a computer processor machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by

the machine to perform method steps for automatic construction of a software package

change plan data output, said method comprising the steps of:

submitting a request for accomplishing a software change to a computer system,

wherein the request for accomplishing a software change describes a task to be done on at

least one target system and a deadline by which a change needs to be completed;

constructing a task graph specifying the order in which tasks accomplishing a

software change execute on the system in compliance with data and temporal dependency

constraints; ~~and~~

creating a software package change plan according to the task graph;

wherein the step of creating a software package change plan includes determining

operating state transitions that are imposed on software artifacts of the system by

execution of the tasks; and

further comprising the step of analyzing the software package change plan, whereby

the duration of a system service outage caused by a change plan ~~may be~~ is determined;

wherein the software package change plan is used to execute the software change.